

# HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Your Secondary Education (SED) application will be assessed by a committee of professors in your chosen subject area. They will conduct Subject Matter Departmental Review (SMDR), which will include an interview and lesson plan preparation. The SMDR committee will rank and select applicants for a SED departmental interview. **Only those applicants who pass Subject Matter Departmental Review will be considered for admission.** The SED coordinator will notify applicants of the SMDR results and schedule SED program interviews.

Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE  
Subject Matter Departmental Review

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The following information explains admission criteria options, Subject Matter Departmental Review requirements, and the appeals process.

## Criteria

Prior to admission into the Secondary Education Credential Program at Humboldt State University, applicants will demonstrate competence in subject matter in the fields of history, geography, political science, sociology, and economics. These are the areas highlighted by the History-Social Science framework for the California public schools. In addition to meeting the minimum overall GPA (2.67) required for admission, the students must complete the requirements as stated below in **either** Option A **or** B:

### **Option A: CTC approved Subject Matter Program**

Those candidates who have completed or are expected to complete a CTC-approved Subject Matter Program in Social Science (Social Science Education), with overall grade point average at or above the minimum set by the State (2.67), have sufficient evidence to satisfy the conditions set forth in the first paragraph under “criteria”. Those candidates with an undergraduate history major – Social Science Education Track or its equivalent will have their transcripts reviewed by History/Social Science Education Committee to determine the course of action required by the candidate to earn the equivalent of the Humboldt State University CTC-approved Subject Matter Program in Social Science. Students completing CTC-approved Subject Matter Program must earn a minimum of a “B” average\* in the following capstone courses designated as the **core** of the Subject Matter Program in Social Science (History Major – Social Science Education Track).

- ❖ HISTORY 420 INTERPRETING HISTORICAL CONCEPTS
- ❖ GEOGRAPHY 470 TOPICS FOR TEACHERS
- ❖ ECONOMICS 320 DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC CONCEPTS

\*Failure to achieve a “B” average will require the applicant to retake the appropriate course or course(s) to remedy the deficiency or take a comprehensive exam in same. The “B” average is established based on the median grades in Behavioral and Social Science departments.

### **Option B: CTC-approved Exams and Capstone Courses**

The CSET exam is required for those who do not have an undergraduate social science major or its equivalent or whose overall grade point average is below 2.67. Students must pass CSET exams - Social Science: Subtest I: World History, World Geography; Subtest II: U.S. History, U.S. Geography; Subtest III: Civics, Economics, California History.

**All required exams must be passed before beginning the SED program in August.**

In addition to passing the CSET exams, candidates must document knowledge that is addressed in the four capstone courses listed below. The History/Social Science Education committee recommends completion of all of the capstone courses or the equivalent. Admission preference may be given to students who have taken the coursework.

- ❖ HISTORY 420 INTERPRETING HISTORICAL CONCEPTS
- ❖ GEOGRAPHY 470 TOPICS FOR TEACHERS
- ❖ ECONOMICS 320 DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC CONCEPTS

## Subject Matter Competency

All applicants must complete the Subject Matter Departmental Review. The course of action for the Subject Matter Departmental Review will require each candidate to complete the following:

- A brief interdisciplinary **lesson plan** on a Social Science topic that demonstrates both the student's historical knowledge and his or her computer competency skills. The topic will be selected by the History/Social Science Education Committee. Each candidate will have at least 5 days to prepare the lesson. The candidate should consider how she/he would present the information in a class setting, taking into consideration the geography of the event and its historic, political, and/or economic implications. Students will receive the lesson plan topic via the mail around mid- to late-February.
- An **interview** with a two-person team of the History/Social Science Education Committee. Each candidate will be asked to assess her/his strengths and weaknesses in the social sciences. Interviews will be conducted in early March.

After the lesson plans are reviewed and interviews are conducted by the History/Social Science Education Committee, members will rank the applicants who have passed and send the list to the Secondary Education Department.

## Appeal

Applicants who do not pass the Subject Matter Departmental Review may appeal their case before a panel of from two to four professors in the relevant social science departments. The panel will determine subject matter competency and/or recommendation for satisfactory solution to deficiencies. An applicant may appeal to the Dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and the Associate Dean of the College of Professional Studies if they have failed in being declared "subject matter competent" at this stage.